



The Alabama Fatherhood Initiative (AFI) Quarterly Newsletter - Summer 2004

"It is a wise father that knows his own child." -- William Shakespeare

1st Annual Alabama Fatherhood Conference SUCCESSFUL

**Planning Underway for 2nd Annual Conference
to be held in June 05!**

After closing a successful 1st Annual Fatherhood Conference held June 4-5, 2004, in Birmingham, Alabama, stakeholders are already looking ahead to 2005. Recalling the vision of Dr. Clyde Williams "to come together for a call to fatherhood for the State of Alabama", government, community and faith-based organizations, advocates, and citizens will work this year to build on the enthusiasm generated by the 2004 conference and the foundation laid by the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative.

This month the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama, the National Institute of Human Development and the Alabama Department of Human Resources are partnering with other State agencies and private stakeholders to begin planning the 2nd Annual Alabama Fatherhood Conference to be held in June 2005.

The 2004 conference provided the first opportunity for representatives of state agencies, faith and community organizations, and fathers to come together on a statewide basis to highlight the issue of Fatherhood. Alabama Attorney General Troy King was the opening speaker for the 2004 conference. He gave sobering statistics from the criminal justice system about the cost of father absence. A ministerial panel called for renewed collaboration among faith groups as we work together to engage fathers constructively in the lives of their children.

AFI Members attended the 7th National Summit on Fatherhood

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) chose the city of Atlanta, Georgia to host the 7th National Summit on Fatherhood June 7-9. The theme of the 2004 conference was "Fatherhood for the Next Generation". According to **Roland Warren**, NFI President, the 2004 theme was intended to capture the main reason why fatherhood program providers are doing the important work to promote responsible fatherhood. He said *"We do it for the children. They are the next generation and will reap the fruits of our labor."*

Calhoun County Parenthood Initiative saddened by the death of a non-custodial father who succeeded at being a better parent

Described as "one of the most successful participants in the Gadsden State/Ayers short-term skills training pilot program", a non-custodial father died this summer before being awarded a skills training completion certificate. The Parenthood Initiative partners were touched by his commitment to training and to his children. The Certificate will be presented to family members.

The AFI Short-term Skills Training Pilot Initiative Receiving National Recognition!

Bob Richie and David Kasriel from the Atlanta Regional Office of Child Support Enforcement were in Alabama on July 13 and 14 to visit Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden Careerlink, Etowah County Child Support Court, and Etowah County DHR. The purpose of the visit was to become better informed about the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative Short-term Skills Training Pilot Initiative and how this program works in Etowah County.

Mr. Kasriel and Mr. Richie were impressed by the project and have invited Jon Costa, Assistant Director, Etowah County DHR, to be a presenter at the African American Forum in Washington D.C. The AFI Short-term Skills Training Pilot Initiative will be highlighted in a national child support publication and at the upcoming National Child Support Training Conference. The federal representatives visited UAB TASC Fatherhood Program during their Alabama trip. Jan Justice, Special Projects Coordinator, DHR Child Support Enforcement Program, arranged the site visits.

Fatherhood Resources "New" to Alabama!

<http://www.calhoun.edu/fatherhoodinitiative/>
Calhoun Community College AFI Web site

<http://www.fathersintouch.org>
Fathers In Touch Program Web site
**Contact - Tony Pierce, Defensive Coordinator,
AL State University Football Program, email:
fathersintouch@aol.com for more information**